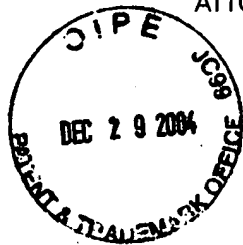


1753
Rk

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December 29, 2004

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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 1753

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/845,784; Filed: May 2, 2001
For: **Gel Loading Adapter**
Inventors: ALLY *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4360002/LEA/AFK

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. SKGF Transmittal Letter;
2. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111; and
3. Return Postcard.

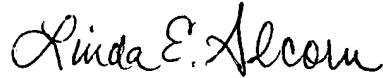
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 29, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Linda E. Alcorn
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LEA/AFK/ja
Enclosures

348868_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

ALLY *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/845,784

Filed: May 2, 2001

For: **Gel Loading Adapter**

Confirmation No.: 5684

Art Unit: 1753

Examiner: Jeffrey Thomas Barton

Atty. Docket: 0942.4360002/LEA/AFK

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated September 29, 2004, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 20040923), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.